

MR. K. A. MATHEW : Can we take it that the Government have not laid down any such policy in regard to the attendance of officers at the meetings presided over by the Dewan ?

MR. V. RAMANUJA AIYANGAR : No.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : Then can we take it that Government do not expect their officers to attend the meetings presided over by the Dewan ?

MR. V. RAMANUJA AIYANGAR : The officers of Government may or may not attend such meetings.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : That is no answer to my question. May I know whether the Government have laid down a policy stating that officers of Government should attend the meetings presided over by the Dewan or they expect their officers to attend such meetings ?

MR. V. RAMANUJA AIYANGAR : No such policy has been laid down by Government.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : Then may I take it that the Government do not expect their officers to participate in the meetings presided over by the Dewan ?

PRESIDENT : This is not a matter where cross-examination could be allowed.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : Sir, I want an answer from Government on this matter, because occasions have arisen when we go in search of Government officers they have not been available on the ground that they had gone to Shencottah in connection with the opening of water supply presided over by the Dewan or some other thing. Various such occasions have arisen and therefore I may be furnished a definite answer.

PRESIDENT : Order, order. It is a practice known throughout the world that when the Head of the Administration takes part in functions which are of a character appertaining to the State at large, the senior officers of Government are also present. That is the case everywhere, whether in England or in India or even under the Congress Government when it has functioned. Therefore there is no question of policy involved in it. Each case depends on its merits. That is the reason why the answer is given in the negative.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : Anyhow I want to bring to the notice of Government that it is the practice of the officers of Government to participate in the meetings and the conferences presided over by the Dewan in Trivandrum.

Indian National Flag.

44. * MR. K. A. MATHEW : Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Police forcibly removed the Indian National Flag hoisted at one of the public meetings held at Palai recently ?

MR. V. RAMANUJA AIYANGAR : There is no recognised Indian National Flag. There are the Congress Flag, the Muslim League Flag, the Communist Flag and so forth.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU : May I know whether it is a fact that Government in a Press Communiqué recently stated that the Congress Flag may be considered as a National Flag ?

MR. V. RAMANUJA AIYANGAR : I am not aware. There is a Congress Flag, a Muslim Flag; but there is no recognised Indian National Flag.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU : When the question of flag was raised very recently, Government issued a communique stating that the Congress Flag could be considered as a National Flag. Are the Government aware of such a communique?

MR. V. RAMANUJA AIYANGAR : I can't say now if such a communique was issued by Government.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU : My question is whether the Government are aware of the fact that in a recent Press Communique they referred to the Congress Flag and considered it as a National Flag.

PRESIDENT : Who has stated so? As a matter of fact even Mr. Jinnah does not accept it, nor the Princes have accepted such a flag as a National Flag. That point does not arise in this connection.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : Sir, in reply to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on the question of flags the Travancore Government stated that they did not mean any dishonour to the Congress Flag.

PRESIDENT : If any denomination or group is entitled to say that it represents the whole nation it is a different matter. The Congress claim is that it represents the whole nation and says that their flag is the National Flag. If the Congress Government comes into power as it may, very well, it may lay down that the Congress Flag should be considered as the National Flag. Then the question will arise whether in the course of negotiations between Indian States and British India the Indian States should also come into line with the Congress and accept the Congress Flag as the National Flag. Until all these negotiations are over, at the present moment no flag can be said to be the National Flag.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : May I know whether any flag was forcibly removed at the public meeting at Palai?

MR. V. RAMANUJA AIYANGAR : Government are not aware.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : Am I to take it that the Government are not aware of any flag being forcibly removed at the public meeting at Palai?

MR. V. RAMANUJA AIYANGAR : I claim notice.

PRESIDENT : Does the Inspector-General know anything about it?

MR. S. PARTHASARATHY AIYANGAR : In one place I remember the police interfered and persuaded the organisers to remove the flag.

MR. P. O. THOMAS : May I know whether the Police interfered with the hoisting of the National Congress Flag?

MR. S. PARTHASARATHY AIYANGAR : The police persuaded the organisers to remove the flag. In accordance with the general policy in the matter the police can prevent the hoisting of flags which are not recognised by Government.

RAO SAHIB A. K. BHASKAR : What is that organisation which was persuaded by the police to remove the flag?

MR. S. PARTHASARATHY AIYANGAR : I do not exactly remember the name of that organisation just at present.

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH : പാലായിൽ നടന്ന ഒരു യോഗത്തിൽ പോലീസുകാർ കൊടി മാറ്റിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്ന ചോദ്യം വന്നതിനുശേഷം അത്തരമൊരു യോഗം ഉണ്ടായോ എന്നും കൊടി മാറ്റപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്നും അവിടെ ഒന്നു അന്വേഷണം നടത്തുകയുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടോ ?

MR. S. PARTHASARATHY AIYANGAR : Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH : അതിന് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റിനു ലഭിച്ച അറിവിന് എന്താണെന്നു പറയാമോ ?

MR. S. PARTHASARATHY AIYANGAR : The Police report says that the police did not remove it.

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH : പേലീസിന്റെ പദേശം അനുസരിച്ച് കൊടി ആത്മാം മാറ്റിയെന്നാണ് റിപ്പോർട്ടിന് പറയുന്നത് ?

MR. S. PARTHASARATHY AIYANGAR : The organisers removed it at the instance of persuasion by the police.

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH : അതു കള്ളമാണെന്നു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു വിശ്വസിക്കാൻ തയ്യാറാണോ ?

MR. S. PARTHASARATHY AIYANGAR : It is not a question, Sir.

MR. P. O. THOMAS : Is it the policy of Government to persuade the organisers not to hoist the congress flag or any flag for that matter at public meetings ?

PRESIDENT : The Government have passed no law or rule prohibiting the hoisting of flags. But the Government of Travancore have a flag of their own. As a matter of treaty obligation, the British Union Jack is hoisted on certain occasions along with the Travancore Flag and that is so long as the British stay in this country. If and when the British administration goes out of this country there will be only the Travancore Flag. The question whether any other flag may come into operation afterwards is a different matter. Certain flags may be displayed in certain circumstances. But if they are displayed under prohibitive circumstances or under circumstances which are not conducive to discipline or order the police have got the entire right to say that such and such should be removed. But, so far, they have not been armed with powers to remove such flags. But they can persuade the organisers to remove such a flag.

Inter-departmental transfers.

45. * MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) the policy of Government in inter-departmental transfers; and

(b) whether that is strictly adhered to, if not the deviations made this year ?